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MATERIALIEN ZUR GESCHICHTE DES DEUTSCHEN VOLKSLIEDS. Aus Universitäts-Vorlesungen von RUDOLF HILDEBRAND. I. Teil : DAS ÄLTERE VOLKSLIED. Herausgegeben von G. Berlit. Leipzig: B. G. Teubner. 1900. Pp. viii + 239.

This volume, which forms also the supplementary number of the fourteenth volume of the *Zeitschrift für den deutschen Unterricht*, is made up from notes of lectures delivered at the University of Leipzig at various times during the ten years 1880-1890 by Rudolf Hildebrand, the distinguished teacher and folk-investigator, on "The older German Folk-Song in its culture-historical and literary significance." Among the topics treated are: Folk-Song and Artificial Song, New Songs that hark back to Olden Times, The Significance of Song in Olden Life, The Literature and the Transmission of the Older Folk-Song, Competitive Singing, Contest between Summer and Winter, The Maiden and the Hazel-Bush, The Rose in Folk-Song, Martinmas Songs, Drinking Songs, Carnival Songs, Foot-soldier Songs, The Old Epic, Historical Folk-Songs, Children's Songs, etc. The texts of many songs are given, and there is a plenitude of bibliographical references, historical, comparative, and explanatory annotations. Although very fragmentary in not a few sections, this book cannot but fail to be useful to the student of German folk-song in its origin and development.

*A. F. C.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORCESTER. A List of Books, Pamphlets, Newspapers, and Broad-sides, printed in the Town of Worcester, Massachusetts, from 1775 to 1848. With Historical and Explanatory Notes. By CHARLES LEMUEL NICHOLS. Worcester: Privately Printed. MDCCCXCIX. Pp. xii + 216.

This well-printed volume contains among its 1296 entries many items of interest to the folk-lorist, the historian of English folk-lore in America in particular. The Worcester edition of "Mother Goose's Melody," Dr. Nichols rightly terms "the most famous of Thomas's reproductions of Carnan and Newbery's London children's books." The vogue which the "last and dying words" of criminals about to be executed enjoyed is apparent from the number of broadsides of this nature. The titles of the Juvenilia and the pseudonyms of some of their authors make very good reading for a melancholy mood that needs to be changed into a merry one. One can hardly refrain from mentioning the following: "The renowned History of Giles Gingerbread, a little Boy who lived on Learning," 1787; "The History of Little King Pippin; with an Account of the melancholy Death of four naughty Boys, who were devoured by wild Beasts. And the wonderful Delivery of Master Harry Harmless by a little white Horse," 1787; "The Death and Burial of Cock Robin; with the tragical Death of A Apple Pye," 1787. In these titles figure: Tommy Trapwit, Nurse True-love, Mrs. Lovechild, Solomon Sobersides, Charley Columbus, Crop the Conjuror, Tommy Thumb, Cock Robin, Goody Twoshoes, Tom Trot, Robin Goodfellow, Mr. Tell Truth, Jackey Dandy, Solomon Winlove, etc. Altogether, the output of Juvenilia is very remarkable. Most curious of all,

perhaps, is the "Hieroglyphick Bible," with "Emblematical Figures for the Amusement of Youth," published in 1788 by Isaiah Thomas. Dr. Nichols has done his work well, and one can only regret that being privately printed in a small edition, his "Bibliography" can hardly attain the circulation it deserves.

A. F. C.

**DIE GEHEIMSYMBOLE DER CHEMIE UND MEDICIN DES MITTELALTERS.**

Eine Zusammenstellung der von den Mystikern und Alchymisten gebrauchten geheimen Zeichenschrift, nebst einem kurzgefassten geheimwissenschaftlichen Lexikon. Von C. W. GESSMANN. Mit 120 lithographierten Tafeln. München: Franz C. Mickl. 1900. Pp. xii + 67 + 126 + 36.

This book, with an historical introduction, a dictionary of alchemical terms (178 in number), 122 pages of symbols, copious indexes in German, Latin, French, English, and Italian, and a list of works referred to, is indeed a remarkable composition, and one not without value to students of folk-lore, who cannot fail to be interested in the thousands of symbols figured and explained, as well as in the terms employed by the old alchemists and men of medicine, or rather, perhaps, "medicine men" of the middle ages. The transmogrifications of some of the letters of the Roman alphabet to make alchemic signs are really wonderful. The historical introduction contains many interesting facts. According to Zosimus, an alchemist of the fourth century, the *Egregori*, or "sons of God," as a reward for the favors they received from the daughters of men (as related in the Book of Enoch), disclosed to them the secrets of astrology, medicine, and cosmetics. Another alchemistic legend attributes the knowledge of these occult matters to the goddess Isis, who claimed it as the reward for her submission to the passion of the angel Amnael. Jacob Toll, a professor of Duisburg, at the end of the seventeenth century, sought to place the whole of ancient mythology on a basis of alchemy. The incident of the burning of the golden calf gave rise to the idea that Moses was an alchemist, and the *Balneum marie* or *Marienbad* is said to take its name from Miriam, the sister of Moses. In the palmy days of alchemy both men and women of all nations devoted themselves to its pursuit, and crowned heads (like Henry VI. of England and Barbara, the consort of the German Emperor Sigismund) are found among their numbers, besides monks and churchmen. The most recent book on alchemy by one of the "adepts" is Jollivet Castellet's "Comment on devient Alchymiste" (Paris, 1897), the author of which is general secretary of the "French Alchemical Society." According to Dr. Gessmann the very latest development is the establishment in America of an "*Argentaurum* Company."

A. F. C.

**THE INDIANS OF TO-DAY.** By GEORGE BIRD GRINNELL, Ph. D. Illustrated with full-page portraits of living Indians. Chicago and New York: Herbert S. Stone & Company. MCCCC. Pp. iii + 185.

This elaborately illustrated volume (there are fifty-six full-page portraits of Indians, — Arapahoes, Blackfeet, Cheyennes, Apaches, Wichitas, Kiowas,